If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, Gregory A. Sebald (Reg. No. 33,280), at (612) 336.4728.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: December 6, 2000

By _____
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GAS/rw

An electrolytic cell for the treatment according to the present invention can be, e.g., a unit which comprises a liquid container having at least one liquid inlet and one liquid outlet, e.g., a pipe, further comprising at least one cathode and one anode placed within said liquid container, said cathode and anode being in electrical contact with the "-" and "+" poles of a direct current source, respectively. Said liquid inlet is connected to stream 5 of Fig. 1, and said liquid outlet is connected to filter 8.

In contrast to the use made in WO 99/16715, in which no chemicals are added, the present invention ~~requires~~ MAY REQUIRE the use of at least hypochlorite. Furthermore, the invention permits to employ water having a conductivity of 3,000 μS or higher, up to about 6,000 μS, without causing any substantial increase in corrosion. A typical pH for operating under these conditions is pH ≈ 8.5 - 9. In this specification "μS" indicates the μSiemens unit (which equals $\mu\Omega^{-1}$). It should be noted that current standards, in cooling towers employing chemicals, is not greater than 3,000 μS, and often as low as 2,000 μS.

The present invention can be carried out by means of any electrolytic cell. An example of such a cell is described, e.g., in Whitten et al., "General Chemistry with Qualitative Analysis", Saunders College Publishing, 4th ed., pp. 12-13.

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In contrast to the use made in WO 99/16715, in which no chemicals are added, the present invention may require the use of at least hypochlorite. Furthermore, the invention permits to employ water having a conductivity of 3,000 μS, or higher, up to about 6,000 μS, without causing any substantial increase in corrosion. A typical pH for operating under these conditions is pH ≈ 8.5 – 9. In this specification, "μS" indicates the μSiemens unit (which equals $\mu\Omega^{-1}$). It should be noted that current standards, in cooling towers employing chemicals, is not greater than 3,000 μS, and often as low as 2,000 μS.

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